



ABOUT COBB COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Cobb Community Foundation inspires charitable giving, builds resources for the future, and connects donors who care with causes that matter. We believe in a community fully engaged in meeting needs now and into the future. The ***Cobb Thrives Gift Guide*** is just one way for us to execute our mission. For more information visit: CobbFoundation.org or connect with the Foundation via Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

ABOUT THE 2023 COBB THRIVES GIFT GUIDE

Cobb Community Foundation and United Way are pleased to introduce, for its inaugural year, the ***Cobb Thrives Gift Guide***. This program is designed to uniquely connect donors who care to causes that matter. The Gift Guide will feature specific funding requests that will support the operational and programmatic needs of local nonprofit organizations.

Gift Guide funding is intended to support nonprofits with those “harder to fund items” that will help them make impact in our community. The guide will also serve to raise visibility for nonprofits doing important work in Cobb County and the immediately surrounding areas.

Gift Guide requests cannot exceed \$7,500. Inclusion in the guide is not a guarantee of funding. Organizations who present strong, compelling requests, with complimentary photographs, will be most likely to receive funding from a donor.

Selection for inclusion in the Gift Guide will be reviewed and determined by a selection committee comprised of community reviewers.

The Cobb Thrives Gift Guide aligns with our vision, at Cobb Community Foundation, to connect donors who care with causes that matter. We desire to see everyone in and around Cobb County THRIVE!

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Organizations

Nonprofits that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for inclusion in the Cobb Thrives Gift Guide.

- Must be classified by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. code as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, donations to which are deductible as charitable contributions under Section 170 (c)(2) OR have a fiscal sponsor
- Must be registered with the Georgia Secretary of State as a nonprofit (click here to verify: <https://ecorp.sos.ga.gov/BusinessSearch>)
Must have a minimum of one-year operating history after the date of receipt of its 501(c)(3) classification
- Must have annual operating expenses between \$25,000 and \$1 million as reflected in the most recently filed I.R.S. Form 990 (click here for more information on Form 990: <https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Form-990-Resources-and-Tools>).
- Must be based in Cobb County and/or serving residents of Cobb County
Faith-based organizations are eligible for non-proselytizing activities
- Individual schools are not eligible to apply, however, district-wide programs, supporting an entire school system, are eligible

Eligible Requests

Resources for program participants or organizations:

- Tangible items such as equipment, clothing, grocery store gift cards, and toys
- Programmatic resources such as videos or training materials
- Capitol items such as office equipment including laptops, tablets, furniture, and kitchen appliances
- Scholarships for program participants

Ineligible requests

- Items that have already been purchased or services that have been contracted prior to application
- Items that cumulatively cost more than \$7,500
- General operating expenses
- Support for organizational or program endowments

HOW TO APPLY

A complete application includes an Organizational Profile and Gift Guide grant application. You can find a link to the Organizational Profile along with the application at cobbfoundation.org.

2023 SCHEDULE

- Wednesday, Sept 13: Grant Seekers' Informational Session
- Thursday, Sept 14: Application opens for 2023 Cobb Holiday Gift Guide
- Thursday, Oct 5: Deadline for nonprofits to submit their Organizational Profile and Gift Guide application
- Tuesday, Oct 17: Selected applicants notified of inclusion in Gift Guide

In early November, Cobb Community Foundation will distribute the Gift Guide to all current donors and other community partners. An online version will also be available on the CCF website. Donors will make grants through the end of the year and up to January 5, 2024. Selected nonprofit organizations can expect to receive funds and donor reporting from the Gift Guide by January 31, 2024.

REPORTING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Grant reporting for The Cobb Holiday Giving Guide is not required, however, we encourage you to share photos and stories about your funded requests. CCF would love the opportunity to share about our partnership and your organization through owned social channels. If you are willing to share a story with us, please send an email to Mary@CobbFoundation.org.

All organizations selected for inclusion in the Gift Guide are welcome to publicize it. Please tag United Way and Cobb Community Foundation's social media handles.

Organizations who are selected for the Gift Guide will receive periodic reporting from CCF, during the months of November and December, regarding the status of their gift requests and items fulfilled.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much can I request?

Total request amounts should not exceed \$7,500, cumulatively. For example, funding request (1) is for an item costing \$1500. Funding request (2) is for an item costing \$3,000. Funding request (3) is for an item costing \$3,000.

How many items can I request?

You may apply for funding for up to three unique items or groups of items.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL GIFT GUIDE SUBMISSION:

- This is your opportunity to share your narrative. Present compelling, unique requests that tell your organization's story. Donors are often drawn to unusual requests that directly correspond to an organization's mission.
- Be intentional with the wording in your application. If selected for the Gift Guide, a strong case showing potential for impact has the best chance to advance. A picture is worth a thousand words! A high-resolution photo of your work (especially those tied to your request) often inspires donors to support your organization, so consider your photo submissions to be a part of your application package.
- Please keep in mind the timeliness of your funding requests. Although the application process is happening now, your organization will not receive the funding for its wishes until January (the catalog will be mailed in mid-November). The most compelling wishes are those that have factored this into their requests.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please review our video on the 2023 Thrive Program page of our website at cobbfoundation.org.

For more information, please email Shelly@CobbFoundation.org.

